

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted pursuant to telephone conferences with the Examiner, in which the Examiner suggested that claims limited similarly to the composition claims of the parent application (now U.S. patent 6,872,578) would be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants submit this amendment, which limits claim 41 to processes in which the second solid phase, i.e. the phase that is used to identify different antibodies in the same immunoglobulin class, comprises magnetically responsive particles that vary in size among size subranges that are differentiable from each other by flow cytometry and by the coated binding species.

The language of claim 1 ("coated with") has been changed to "coupled thereto" so as to be consistent with claims in previous applications in this series. No substantive change is meant by this, however.

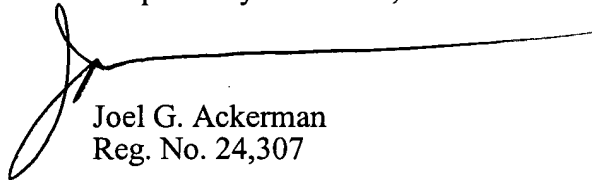
Applicants point out that the filing of this amendment is occasioned solely by the convenience and opportunity offered by the Examiner of expeditiously obtaining a patent in this application through voluntarily amending the claims. In so doing, Applicants do not concede that this amendment is made for reasons of patentability, and specifically do not concede that the originally filed claims are not patentable. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecuting such claims in further applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joel G. Ackerman
Reg. No. 24,307

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300

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